

In re Patent Application of:
REDDY
Serial No. 10/025,823
Filing Date: **DECEMBER 8, 2001**

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough examination of the present application. The specification has been amended to correct the noted informalities, as helpfully pointed out by the Examiner. Independent Claims 1, 12, 21, and 28 have been amended to more clearly define the subject matter thereof over the prior art, and dependent Claims 4, 22, and 29 have been amended for consistency therewith. Support for the amendments may be found in the document scanner of the copier/MFD devices discussed at page 6, line 32 through page 7, line 9 of the originally filed specification and shown in FIGS. 2, 4, and 5, for example. No new matter is being added.

In view of the amendments and the supporting arguments presented in detail below, it is submitted that all of the claims are patentable.

I. The Claimed Invention

The present invention is directed to a document processing system. As recited in amended independent Claim 1, for example, the system includes a document scanner and a document processing device for cooperating with the document scanner to perform copy jobs, and also for performing print jobs. Moreover, the system further includes a print server for sending print jobs to the document processing device, and a copy station connected to the document processing device, the document scanner and the print server for allowing a user to enable the document processing device and the document scanner to perform a copy job.

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The copy station prevents the print server from sending print jobs to the document processing device while the document processing device and the document scanner are enabled for performing a copy job. The copy station also prevents a user from enabling the document processing device and the document scanner to perform a copy job while the document processing device is performing a print job.

Independent Claim 12 is directed to a similar document processing system, independent Claim 21 is directed to a related method, and independent Claim 28 is directed to a related computer-readable medium. Each of these claims has been amended to recite that the user is prevented from enabling the document processing device and the document scanner to perform a copy job when the document processing device is performing a print job, and that print jobs are prevented from being sent to the document processing device to be performed when the document processing device and the document scanner are enabled for performing a copy job.

II. The Claims Are Patentable

The Examiner rejected independent Claims 1, 21, and 28 based upon U.S. Patent No. 5,287,194 to Lobiondo, and Claim 21 is rejected based upon Lobiondo in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,563,598 to Johnson et al. Lobiondo is directed to a print job distribution system in which a scheduler controls the distribution of print jobs to a plurality of network printers. When a print job is received, the scheduler determines which

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network printers are capable of processing the job with its given attributes, and these printers are checked for availability. If the time constraint on a particular job is short, the scheduler checks for the fastest of these printers to complete the job. If it is determined that a single printer cannot complete the job by the required completion time, the scheduler can allocate portions of the job among a plurality of available printers. See, e.g., col. 4, line 35 through col. 5, line 14 of Lobiondo. While the Examiner correctly acknowledges that Lobiondo fails to teach or fairly suggest a copy station connected to a document processing device and a print server for allowing a user to enable a primary document processing device to perform a copy job based upon receiving a valid billing code from the user, the Examiner contends that Johnson provides this noted deficiency.

Independent Claims 1, 12, 21, and 28 have been amended to recite that the user is prevented from enabling the document processing device and the document scanner to perform a copy job when the document processing device is performing a print job, and that print jobs are prevented from being sent to the document processing device to be performed when the document processing device and the document scanner are enabled for performing a copy job. In sharp contrast, the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest disabling a scanner for scanning copy jobs while a print job is pending. Rather, Lobiondo merely teaches that copy and print jobs can be diverted from a given printer if the load on that printer is high, NOT that the scanner should be disabled from scanning because a print job is being processed by the

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printer.

To the contrary, Lobiondo teaches that scanned copy jobs can be diverted to be printed more quickly, meaning that the scanner will indeed be enabled for scanning at the same time print jobs are being processed, and the scanned copy job would simply be diverted accordingly. For example, the above-noted text of Lobiondo provides a usage case in which a user needs 1000 sets of documents to be prepared by a certain time. In such case, "the user would scan in the document or send the digital representation of the document into the network in a common printer spooling area." Lobiondo, col. 4, lines 35-39. Moreover, a scheduler then analyzes the printers on the network and determines which printers are capable of producing the job, and the determined printers are then checked for availability and the job is allocated based upon the load of the determined printers. Lobiondo, col. 4, lines 46-52. Thus, even though the network printers are already processing print and copy jobs, the scanner is still enabled for scanning and the document is simply routed to different printers based upon network usage.

Accordingly, it is submitted that independent Claims 1, 12, 21, and 28 are patentable over the prior art. Their respective dependent claims, which recite yet further distinguishing features, are also patentable over the prior art and require no further discussion herein.

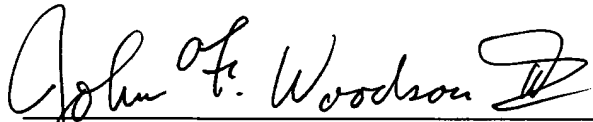
CONCLUSIONS

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all of

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the claims are patentable. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course. Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 29th day of September, 2005.

